

LANCE ARMSTRONG CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I am joining a cancer survivor, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK), our colleague, in what is truly a bipartisan recognition of excellence as we introduce legislation to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Lance Armstrong. Lance is an Austinite, but one does not have to share his hometown to appreciate the depth of his achievements.

After being stricken with advanced cancer, Lance's chances of survival were slim and his chances of getting back on a bicycle were even slimmer. Just 3 months after his diagnosis in 1996, he formed the Lance Armstrong Foundation to promote cancer awareness, education, and research.

And then, his amazing comeback. Last year he conquered the Tour de France with the same strength and grace as he conquered cancer, and this year he did it again. Next week in Australia we hope his yellow jersey is turned into Olympic gold. While his courageous battle with cancer set the stage for an amazing comeback, one of the most amazing in sports history, it is his commitment to raising cancer awareness and helping others triumph over this disease that particularly merits congressional recognition.

In honor of his courage, his preeminence in the sport of cycling, and his dedication to both improving the lives of cancer victims and finding a cure for this disease, please join us in supporting the Lance Armstrong Congressional Gold Medal Act.

HONORING SENATOR BRYAN

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to recognize one of Nevada's great statesman who, at the end of this Congress, will be retiring from the United States Senate. Senator RICHARD BRYAN, a native of southern Nevada, has been a leader from a very young age, ever since being elected president of his eight grade class at John Park Elementary School.

Senator BRYAN's distinguished career in public service has spanned more than 3 decades, culminating with his two terms as a United States Senator.

Throughout his tenure in the Senate, he has been committed to protecting Nevada's interest in Congress, and with only four Members in Congress to represent the entire State of Nevada, I learned during my first days here in the House the importance of a good working relationship with the other Chamber. It has been an honor for me to have the opportunity to work with

such a fine legislator and dedicated Nevadan as Senator RICHARD BRYAN.

Mr. Speaker, I wish him all the best in his future endeavors after the 106th Congress comes to a close.

CONSPIRACIES WITHIN JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, a Federal judge ruled that the Branch Davidians were responsible for killing their own children. The Justice Department spit the hook again. Beam me up.

I did not believe it when the Justice Department said there was no conspiracy in the assassination of JFK, there was no conspiracy in the assassination of Martin Luther King, or the assassination of Bobby Kennedy; and I do not believe that the parents of the young children of the Branch Davidians knowingly and with intent incinerated their own children. Is it any wonder America is losing trust in our government? Cannot Congress see it?

I yield back the lives, the crimes, the coverups, and the withholding of exculpatory evidence to judges and juries by the Justice Department.

PAYING OFF AMERICA'S DEBT SHOULD BE TOP PRIORITY FOR CONGRESS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, Allen Greenspan appeared before one of our committees here on Capitol Hill, and he made it clear that increased spending was the worst option for using the budget surplus we have today. He said very clearly that the first thing we should do is pay down the public debt. He said, and I quote, "If that proves politically infeasible, I would opt for cutting taxes."

Mr. Speaker, this Nation has a public debt of over \$3 trillion. How much is \$1 trillion? If we borrowed \$1 million a day 7 days a week every year and we began on the day Jesus Christ was born and went until now, we would not yet have \$1 trillion.

We have the opportunity right now to pay off the public debt, and that is what our Republican Congress wants to do.

But the big spenders say we are not spending enough. The President wants \$40 billion more than we have appropriated, even though every dollar we do not pay off as debt our children will have to pay interest on.

Is there any end to the Clinton-Gore administration's thirst for big government spending?

HUNGER RELIEF ACT

(Mrs. CLAYTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, we all recognize that we are enjoying great prosperity, prosperity that we have not experienced ever before, and this is indeed a time to do those things that we could not afford to do before.

I want to bring to my colleagues' attention that there is a bill, H.R. 3192, it is called the Hunger Relief Act, and it has more than 180 cosponsors; and in the Senate, it has more than 39 cosponsors. It is a bipartisan bill.

It is a bill that looks at the fact that the least among us are not able to feed themselves. Some estimate that there are more than 40 million people who are facing hunger, or hunger insecurity. This is the time indeed, if we want to use the surplus, part of that surplus should be used to relieve those who are indeed suffering from hunger.

I would say to my colleagues, we would be spending more money, truly we would; but investing in nutrition would reduce, guess what, the cost of health care. Vesting in nutrition would mean that children would learn better. So this would be an investment, Mr. Speaker, that I think we cannot afford not to do.

Please, let us bring this bill up on suspension so we can do this before the end of this Congress.

PEOPLE SHOULD COME BEFORE POLITICS

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, look at this week's headlines. The Boston Globe: "Gore Misstates Fact in Drug Cost Pitch." The Washington Times: "Gore Made Up Anecdote About Cost of Drugs."

Mr. Speaker, we now have a new twist to "the dog ate my homework" saga. Just like supposedly inventing the Internet, the Vice President has invented a story on the campaign trail where he falsely claims his mother-in-law pays three times the price for prescription drugs as his black labrador. Make no mistake. No senior citizen should have to choose between food and medicine. That is why the Republican House passed legislation to lower the cost of prescription drugs by 25 percent, without creating a cumbersome government-run HMO as the Vice President has proposed.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's leaders should give the American people some straight talk, not invent personal stories solely for political gain. Our Nation's seniors, mothers-in-law, and even family pets, deserve no less. People should come before politics.